RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NEUCHATEL - QUARTERLY REPORT

DIVISION	:	QUALITY ASSURANCE + TECHNICAL SERVICES
SUBJECT TITLE	:	QUALITY ENGINEERING
PERIOD COVERED	:	APRIL - JUNE 1990
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HANDBOOK FOR VISUAL QUALITY AUDIT OF FINISHED PRODUCTS

Objective

Develop a revised Handbook of Visual Standards for Finished Products jointly with PM-USA. Implementation of the new procedure at PME-QA is planned for January 1st, 1991.

Status

Packaging standards

PM-USA sent to PME in April 1990 the 250 completed manuals of Packaging Quality Standards.

Cigarettes standards

- Final agreement was reached regarding cigarette standards between PME and PM-USA. Comments received from the US factories and from the VQA-PME laboratory with practical experience have been taken into consideration.
- PM-USA has sent the "Generic" cigarette illustrations, and positive comments were made by PME.
- PME has developed a proposal of new weighting factors including documentation explaining how they were set up.
- PME has developed a draft of the inspection procedure including soft pack, hard pack and cigarette.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/ypnm0000

Plans

- Develop the EDP application, i.e. data base, sample management and monthly report.
- Submit the proposal of the new weighting factors to the affiliates as well as to PM-USA.
- Proofread the "Good to print" of the cigarette standards (French, Italian, German and Dutch).
- Finalize the inspection procedure and make the translation in French.
- Develop a cigarette support and adapt it to new inspection procedure in order that the auditors eliminate handling cigarettes as much as possible.

PME METHODS MANUAL

Status

Several finalized methods were sent to the holders of a complete manual and reference documents from Manufacturing Services Group were also introduced in the system:

- no 026: laminar test of cigarette papers using ratio-R calculation
- no 056: determination of the capability line of filtration material
- no 771: final inspection report for non-tobacco materials to be used by suppliers
- no 820: guidelines regarding PME specifications for casings and flavor
- no 821: guidelines for producing casings and flavors
- no 822: guidelines for checking casings and flavors
- no 823: guidelines for the ingredient tests to be run before registration in the "usage catalogue".

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AUTOMATIC TOBACCO REMOVER

Objective

Develop an efficient method to recover tobacco from finished cigarettes for further analyses such as cylinder-volume and sieve-size distribution.

Status

The series of 8 devices is currently being manufactured by an outside company in Berlin.

Plan

All devices will be tested before delivery, which is expected to take place by September/October 1990.

CHECKING OF AGED FINISHED PRODUCT

Objective

Develop regional guidelines on how to check aged finished product in affiliates' warehouses in order to have application of standardized rules.

Status

After having taken inventory of current, regional procedures, a draft proposal was sent to the QA managers, PM-EEC and PM-EEMA. We expect comments by August 24th, 1990.

Plan

This subject will be finalized during the next QA managers meeting in BOZ in September 1990.

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REGIONAL PACK SEAL EFFICIENCY SURVEY

Objective

Carry out a survey in all factories regarding pack-seal efficiency using IMPS tester in order to have a consistant baseline for further discussions and to set objectives.

Status

A sampling plan has been sent to the factories, proposing to test 12 groups in each factory.

Plan

Results will be consolidated in Neuchâtel and presented at the next QA managers meeting in BOZ in September 1990. The deadline to send results is August 31st, 1990.

PROJECT VOLGA

Objective

Install a QA system in Kuibyshev including QA instruments and QA procedures.

Status

A list of QA equipment including price estimates has been prepared and handed over to AOD EEMA.

Plan

Orders will be placed by FTR as soon as we get the green light from AOD EEMA.

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